

Electricity Bodies Undergoing Losses***257. SHRISHRAVANKUMARPATEL:**

Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of the State and other Electricity Corporations and Undertakings incurring losses during the last three years, State-wise;

(b) the extent of losses incurred during each of the last three years;

(c) the main reasons for these losses; and

(d) the steps taken or proposed to be taken by the Government to reduce the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) and (b). The number of State Electricity Boards, who have suffered loss during the last three years, is given below:-

<i>Year ending 31st March</i>	<i>No. of SEBs in loss</i>	<i>Amount in crores</i>
1988	10	524.09
1989	9	608.86
1990	10	842.78

In addition, there are six Power Generation Corporations under various States, of which, according to available information, one unit in Uttar Pradesh and another in West Bengal are making loss to the extent of Rs. 66.55 crores and Rs. 77.58 cores during 1989-90 and 1990-91 respectively.

(c) Main reasons for Boards' losses include low agricultural tariffs, low plant Load Factor (PLF), High Transmission and Distribution (T&D) losses, pilferage of power, heavy interest burden on loans, losses accruing due to rural electrification etc.

(d) State Governments have been impressed upon, from time to time, including in the Conferences of Power Ministers of States, to improve the operations of the SEBs so as to achieve the statutory surplus of 3%, and to take steps like equity participation, provision of subsidy to meet the losses for supply of power to the agricultural sector, timely revision of tariff, improving the

performance of generating stations, reducing T&D losses etc.

2. As per the consensus reached at the Power Minister's Conference held in September, 1990, it is proposed to set up five Regional Power Tariff Boards, which will make recommendations to the State Governments regarding fixation of rationalised tariffs. States have also been urged for fixation of a minimum agricultural power of 50 paise/kwh.

Upgrading of the North Eastern Council

***258. SHRI BHOY KRISHNA HANDIQUE:** Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Union Government have received a proposal to upgrade the statutory North Eastern Council (NEC) from an advisory body to a full-fledged regional planning authority; and